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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2902

November 11, 1995

Mr. Robert A. Ridge  
7 Colonial Drive  
Auburn, New Hampshire 03032

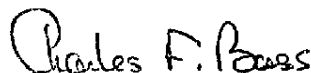
Dear Mr. Ridge:

Thank you for contacting me regarding your concern about tobacco regulation. I appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

I agree with you that the FDA has clear jurisdictional boundaries and that regulation of tobacco is outside of this jurisdiction. Commissioner Kessler's testimony before Congress last year was a clear indication of his intention to have tobacco classified as a "drug" under his purview. This has historically not been the case, and I see no reason to expand the responsibilities of the FDA at a time when American citizens are literally dying while waiting for drugs and medical devices to wind their way through the FDA's cumbersome approval process. As tobacco and smoking issues come before this Congress, you may rest assured that I will keep your concerns firmly in mind.

Again, thank you for contacting my office. Please do not hesitate to get back in touch should you have further comments or concerns.

Sincerely,



Charles F. Bass  
Member of Congress

CFB:dc

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